T.J. Masters

AP Literature and Composition

Period 4 Portfolio Reflection

This I Believe Reflection

This paper brought along several challenges throughout the process of writing. For an assignment that is based solely on what I believe in, this was rather hard. First of all, the way I live my life—that is, my views on the world—was completely subconscious until the paper required me to ruminate on my personal approach to life, which I had not ever done. Once I examined myself and the “This I Believe” essays of other people, I had the task of choosing which aspect of my life I wanted to write about. I knew I had to insert something about my belief in the responsibility of people in their own actions and the power to choose the path that they follow, but I wasn’t quite sure on how I could phrase my belief. With the help of clever wording, I feel that I hit the nail on the head and epitomized my views on the world.

Considering the challenges presented in this paper, I feel that I did several things well. The first thing I liked in my paper was the capture of my personal voice. In everyday conversations, I like to make sad attempts at humor, and even though I fail miserably at making jokes, this is among the things that make me who I am. The inclusion of my own personal brand of farce into this assignment added another personal layer into the text. Furthermore, I really enjoyed the overall end product of my paper. I feel that I got across what I wanted to, and the paper could serve as a message for some if they choose to read it. I know I could always look to this assignment if I ever catch myself doubting my own abilities or lacking in willpower. I don’t want to be a hypocrite so I can use this paper as a tool to keep me from becoming one.

If I could do this paper over, I would choose to review the “This I Believe” website a little more thoroughly than I initially did. I think I only listened to three of them, the minimum requirement for the assignment, before I set out creating one of my own. I think that hearing what other people have to say, what makes them unique from the rest of the world, could have given me greater inspiration to make this paper truly a part of myself and my life. Although I feel I did well on this assignment, I still think that I could have done better, and more pre-writing preparation I would have been ecstatic with the end result instead of just satisfied. Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed this assignment. It was completely unique from anything I have ever done, and I hope that I get to do more assignments like this as I continue my education.